

Wilson Perseveres in Budget Battle and Brings Home Nearly \$8 million for Ohio's Sixth Congressional District

\$690,643 headed to Mahoning & Columbiana Counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today announced that \$7,987,643 in federal dollars could soon be headed directly to Ohio's Sixth District, with \$690,643 of that money going to support growth and recovery in Mahoning and Columbiana Counties. The federal funds are part of the \$410 billion Omnibus spending bill which passed the House today and will wrap up Congress' work on 2009 appropriations. The bill still awaits Senate passage.

This legislation works in harmony with the recently enacted economic recovery package, making investments that address the country's immediate needs while investing in our long term economic strength. The bill cuts and eliminates programs that haven't performed the way they should, and includes strict accountability measures to ensure that American tax dollars are spent wisely. It invests in oversight efforts carried out by the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. The bill makes great improvements in the following areas.

- **Energy Security:** Increases funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, to increase the production of clean, efficient, American energy key to our long term economic security.
- **Scientific Research:** Makes strong investments into cutting edge science so that our nation will maintain its preeminence in the global economy.
- **Healthcare Access and Affordability:** Improves access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- **Education to Promote Opportunity:** Promotes our future economic strength by investing in K-12 education and helping families send their kids to college.

- **Workers:** Helps American workers in the tough economy train for and find good jobs in safe workplaces.

- **Safe and Healthy America:** Protects Americans by investing in programs to ensure clean air and water, and the safety of our food, medicine and consumer products.

- **Regulation for an Economy in Chaos:** Strengthens regulatory agencies that had been neglected, to beef up their efforts during the economic crisis.

In addition, earmarks have been further reduced by 5% below last year's levels, building on last year's 43% reduction.

"I'm proud of this spending bill," Wilson said. "We've made responsible cuts, but are spending money where it needs to be spent. If there's one thing I hear a lot from people all along the Ohio River and up into Mahoning and Columbiana Counties is that they feel Ohio doesn't always get its fair share," Wilson said. "I'm proud to bring nearly \$8 million back home in federal investment. Each of these projects will help our district; these aren't bridges to nowhere."

For example, Wilson successfully secured \$295,000 for an initiative known as "From Steel to Scholars"

for Mahoning County.

This initiative will encourage and motivate the students to achieve an effective or excellent rating in proficiency testing in grades K-12. Designed by the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce and in coordination with the Alliance for Congregational Transformation Influencing our Neighborhoods (ACTION),

From Steel to Scholars

will assist in the Parent and Youth Organizing Project for the purpose of bringing together parents, teachers, administrators and community members to examine and tackle issues in public education.

"This project is focused on strengthening and developing parent and youth leadership in five elementary schools and two high schools within the Youngstown City School District," Wilson

said. "Each school will then develop a core group of leaders consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members who will work to increase parents' involvement in their children's education and to address larger issues that face the school district."

In addition, Wilson, along with Rep. Tim Ryan (OH-17), secured \$245,643 for Mahoning County's "Salute to Success" program, an entrepreneurship development initiative.

The Youngstown - Warren region has had challenges with developing business startups. The program will create a one-stop portal to leverage existing community resources for entrepreneurial support.

"Small businesses are the engine that drives our economy," Wilson said. "The goal of Salute to Success is to provide residents of the Mahoning Valley support in the growth and development of private business through an Entrepreneurship Incubator." Wilson said. "In addition to sharing space and ideas, clients have access to business and administrative services, networking, mentoring and peer support, including business referrals."

Wilson also made sure that both the Mahoning County and Columbiana County Sheriff Departments each will receive \$50,000 for much needed equipment.

With these funds, both departments will each be able to purchase the following: two in-car digital eyewitness video systems, two radar units, 15 bullet proof vests, ten pairs of night vision goggles, and five laptop computers to be used in mobile command units and in the field.

"I believe our local law enforcement has had to do too much with too little for too long," Wilson said. "I'm proud we're reversing that trend, keeping our citizens and our officers safer."

Finally, Wilson secured \$50,000 for the Resource Center of Columbiana County, an after school program, which will help combat generational poverty and drug and alcohol use.

The bill is now headed to the Senate for passage. Senate passage is likely next week.

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